To the Inhabitants of Southington Society —

Gentlemen

A Committee appointed by you to confer with me, reſpecting certain ſuppoſed Grievances have call'd upon me. — I find by the Minutes of the Society's Clerk that the Charge in general against me is, neglect of that part of my Ministry, which conſiſts, in "viſiting my People in their diſtreſses — in ſickneſs &c" —

I deny the propriety of this charge, and affirm that it is like a multitude of other false and groundleſs Stories which circulate reſpecting me. — I have not allowed buſineſs of any kind to divert me from attending upon the ſick whenever I have been call'd to do it.

Much Converſation paſs'd between your Committee and me, which if they ſee fit, they will repeat. —

The Sum of the whole on their part appeard to be this — that it is commonly ſuppoſed I have ſo much other buſineſs as muſt prevent my attending in the beſt Manner to the buſineſs of the Miniſtry. —

My Anſwer is that the Salary I have recieved for ſeveral years paſt has been totally inadequate to the ſubſiſtence of my family. — I found myſelf neceſsitated therefore either to call for more Salary — to ceaſe preaching — or to look for part of my ſubſiſtence in ſome other way. —

The firſt Alternative (viz) calling for more Salary I have ever ~~thought~~ deemed it to be a thankleſs piece of buſineſs for a Miniſter. — The ſecond, ceaſing to preach, did not accord with my wiſhes. — I have therefore found it neceſsary to adopt the laſt.

This now appears not to be acceptable to you. —

I therefore at this time do what I ſhould not have done had not you ~~begun with me~~ given the occaſion, call upon you for a Salary ſufficient for the maintenance of my family — the education of my Children — and that increase of property which is reaſonable for a Perſon of my Education and Advantages in Life. — — —

It is beyond all queſtion as much your duty and the ſpirit of our agreement, that you ſhould give me a full maintenance, as it is that I ſhould ſpend my time for you. —

If you will do this, I will as ſoon as poſſible leave all other buſineſs, and make it the ſole Object of my attention, to regard your Concerns. —

~~Should it be aſked what ſum will anſwer this purpoſe — I anſwer — That if you will reſtore to me the original Covenant I will be contented with it, and conſider it as a ſufficient Maintenance, let the price of Grain be as it may.~~

If this propoſition be not acceptable to you I ſee not but that it will be neceſſary to adopt the ſecond Alternative — That I muſt ceaſe

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preaching to you. ——

On the whole as the Minds of many appear to be embittered against me, on other pretences indeed, but as I suppose on Account of the Doctrine which I preach, and false, malicious Reports which have been spread concerning me, I am apprehensive that this is the most expedient thing that can be done. —

Should you judge so, and be desirous of employing some other Person I will not stand in the way; but will ~~endeavour to~~ ~~lend~~ give you all the assistance in my power toward obtaining one who may exhibit Truth to you in a Form more suited to your Taste, than I have been able to do. —

I am Gentlemen your Friend
Humble Servant
Wm Robinson —

Southington
Decr 21. 1801 —

Mr. R. to Socy
Dec. 21. 1801

P.S. to my Answer.

If it be not agreeable to you to make the addition to my Salary which I have propoſ'd above; as you have already voted that you will not pay me the ſtipulated ſum, I ſhould think it not worth while in the preſent ſituation of thgs to take a Vote on that ſubject again; but to let the Queſtion be whether you are willing that I ſhall take a diſmiſsion.

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Complaints against Mr Robinson — By Comee — that he does not attend to the Ministry as he ought — that he attends too much to Worldly business, which diverts him from his Studies, and visiting his People in their distresses — in sickness &c —

Comee to converse with Mr Robinson on Complaints —

J. Clark Esqr —
Deacn Newel
Deacn Dutton
Deacn Barnes

Simn Lee
H. Atwater
R Moore
Step. Pratt

Majr Hart —